

REMARKS

Prior to the mailing of the August 25, 2004 Office Action, claims 1-37 were pending with claims 29-35 having been withdrawn. This paper amends claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 16, 18, 19, 22, 27 and 37 and cancels claims 29-35. Accordingly, claims 1-29 and 36-37 are currently at issue, reconsideration and further examination of which are specifically requested.

Rejection of claims 1-27 and 37 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,243,783

At page 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,243,783 to Schmidt ("Schmidt").

In reply to this rejection, and consistent with the telephone interview between Examiner Strimbu and Attorney of Record, Austin J. Foley on October 19, 2004, Applicants submit the above Amendments and further submit that claims 1-27 and 37 are in condition for allowance. Notice of same is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication at page 3 of the office action that claims 28 and 36 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

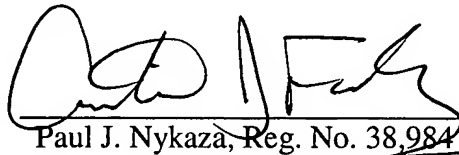
Applicants wish to thank Examiner Strimbu for the courtesy extended in taking the time to discuss the above amendments during the telephone interview of October 19, 2004.

In view of the above, it is submitted the application is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. Further, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply or if it will expedite the progress of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 9, 2004

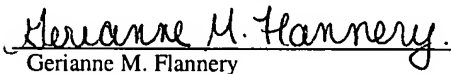
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 9, 2004


Gerianne M. Flannery